

SAPPH♀WOMAN♀



and the
Greater
Belfast Dykes

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SAPPHP WOMAN



SO WHO IS SAPPHWOMAN? WHAT IS HER EVERY-DAY DISGUISE WHEN SHE WISHES TO BLEND WITH EVERYDAY BORING PEOPLE? READ ON...

+ FRIEND OF THE APATHETIC, DOLE-DRUMMED, PENNYLESS, POSSESSOR OF ALL THE DRIVE, PASSION + AMBITION OF A MANHOLE COVER - BUT NOT QUITE AS CHARISMATIC!!

SIGH! DO YOU THINK MM COULD EVER FALL FOR ME, PEN?

HUH! PAISLEY'LL BE POPE FIRST!

SIGH! BUT IT'S AGONY, WATCHING HER EVERY-DAY - THE WAY SHE MOVES - HER EYES, HER LIPS, HER THIGHS, HER....

SO BUY SOME PAPER KNICKERS!

AND INTRODUCING THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE

'MONTHLY CYCLE' COLLECTIVE...

MEET VIOLA NICEPOSIE - HUMANITARIAN, VEGETARIAN, PACIFIST + NOT QUITE RADICAL FEMINIST!

THIS IS PEARL DIVER, YOUNG, AMBITIOUS, BABYBUTCH + CUB REPORTER WITH THE Q'S TABLOID..... "THE MONTHLY CYCLE"



(PEARL DAYDREAMS ALOT)

... + MADLY INFATUATED WITH HER EDITOR, THE ROUGH TOUGH, SHO'ENOUGH MARIA MARAUDER!! MERCILESS IN HERMISSION TO TOTALLY DISMEMBER THE PATRIARCHY



+ EX-US ARMY SARGE, MILLY TENT - SCOURING THE STREETS OF WAR-TORN BELFAST IN SEARCH OF HER IRISH ROOTS - A WILLING RECRUIT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST IRISH CHAUVINISM!!

... SO WE LOB THE SMOKE GRENADES AFTER WE KICK THE DOORS IN! GOT THAT VIOLA?

BUT THEY MIGHT MIND... OH DO BE CAREFUL... CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT IT....



MOYA O'FLYNN - ART EDITOR, IN CHARGE OF GRAPHICS + UNFORTUNATELY, THE MEDICINE CABINET!!

WOW!! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SUCH COLOURS?
SO STRONG, SO VIVID, SO VITAL....

SO WHAT! SOBER UP WOMAN! DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON?!

BLOODY ARTY-FARTY TYPES! WASTE OF SKIN!!

+LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE ABSENTEE COLLECTIVE MEMBER, ALL THE WAY FROM SCANDINAVIA, STALWART OF C.I.J., GREENPEACE, THE GREEN PARTY, THE SAVE THE WORLD, WHALE, OZONE LAYER, RAINFOREST ETC. ETC. PARTY - INGE ABBAAN WHO, UNFORTUNATELY, CANNOT BE AT TODAYS MEETING!...

INGE SENDS HER APOLOGIES, BUT AT THIS VERY MOMENT, SHE IS IN GREENLAND WITH HER COMRADES, IN THE NOBLE CAUSE OF SAVING THE WHALES!!

WALES! WHAT A COUNTRY - SO VIVID, SO GREEN, SO RESTLESS. SO WELSH!! IT IS A GREEN LAND!

WALES, WALES! DOESN'T SHE KNOW THAT HERE IS WHERE IT'S HAPPENING!
HERE ON THE BLOODY STREETS OF BELFAST!!

SIGH! SOMETIMES I FEEL SO TIRED + OLD, M.M!

I SOMETIMES WISH I WAS ON AN ICEFLOE WITH INGE!!

+SOMETIMES COLLECTIVE MEETINGS GO ON+ON+ON!!

SAPPHOWOMAN MEETS 'DESPERATE DYKE'!

LATE ON A SUMMER EVENING, + ALL THE PUBS HAVE CLOSED - WHEN, DRUNKENLY STAGGERING UP THE ORMEAU RD, WE SEE, A WEE BEGONE, DESPERATE DYKE -

SHE CRAVE ME A D-
D FOR DISASTER-
D FOR DISMAL-
D FOR DYKE - HEE-
D FOR DON'T LOVE YOU -
- SNIFF! -
"D FOR DIVE OFF THE
ORMEAU BRIDGE!!"-
THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO -
I'LL SHOW HER!! - HIC.

- SUFFERING FROM THE DOUBLE BODY BLOW OF FAILING
HER END OF TERM EXAMS + UNREQUITED LOVE FOR HER TUTOR!!



MEANWHILE, ANOTHER WEE DEPRESSED, DRUNK DYKE STAGGERS DOWN THE ORMEAU ROAD

MM, DOESN'T EVEN NOTICE ME.. SNIFF! - I HATE MY FINGERS TO THE BONE FOMERLY - + NOTHING - NOT EVEN AN XMAS SNOG UNDER THE Mistle TOE - 'CHRISTMAS IS THE ULTIMATE CAPITALIST CASH IN ON COLLECTIVE CHRISTIANITY' - SHE SAID!

MAYBE I'LL TAKE BERTHA UP ON HER OFFER OF BED BUT NEVER BORED!! - HANBLIP! - WHAT'S THAT DRUNKEN WEE WOMAN DOING???



HOLY SHIT! - SHE'S THROWING HERSELF OFF THE ORMEAU BRIDGE - HOW UNHYGENIC! - THIS IS A JOB FOR SAPPHOWOMAN!!



FOR SEVERAL SECONDS THEY SWIRL + SWOOP OVER THE WHIRLY WATERS OF THE LAGAN - UNTIL - SUDDENLY A TRANQUIL MOMENT -



WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, DOESN'T LAST LONG....!!



ANOTHER CATASTROPHE AVERTED, OUR HEROINE, ONCE MORE, TAKES TO THE SKIES.



WE CAN ALL REST ASSURED THAT WHEREVER THERE'S A DIKE IN DISTRESS, A FEMINIST IN A FLURRY, A WOMAN IN WORRY + A LESBIAN IN DEEP-SHIT - SAPPHOWOMAN - WILL BE THERE!!!



SAPPHO WMAN! oo in...

"RECLAIM
THE
NIGHT!"

MARIA MARAUDER
HAS ORGANISED
A PROTEST MARCH
AGAINST MALE
VIOLENCE, ABUSE
+ GENERAL
ANNHANCE
TOWARDS WOMEN
DURING THE
HOURS OF
DARKNESS!



WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THE
NOTORIOUS SPRAY SISTERS
HAVE INFILTRATED THIS DEBACLE!!



THEY ARE LISTED AS PUBLIC NUISANCE
NO. 1 - + MUST BE APPREHENDED
FORTHWITH - PC SCUM - FETCH!!

THE NOTORIOUS SPRAY SISTERS - TWINS +
PURVEYORS OF FEMINIST, AEROSOL WISDOM -
ALSO THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS OF THE FUNES
OF THEIR WORK ... + NOT VERY OZONE FRIENDLY!!



DON'T WORRY SARGE - I'LL PICK
THEM OUT IN A MO. - WEE BUNS!



SCUM! - YOU PILLOCK! - RELEASE THOSE WOMEN AT ONCE!
DON'T YOU KNOW THERE'S ONLY 2 SPRAY SISTERS + THEY'RE
IDENTICAL!!!

AND SO, AS ONCE AGAIN THE NOTORIOUS SPRAY SISTERS
INCONSPICUOUSLY MELT INTO THE BACKGROUND,
THE POLICE GRUDGINGLY WITHDRAW!!



BELFAST SAYS NO!
I'M GLAD THE PEELERS HAVE
GONE! - THOSE SPRAY SISTERS
BETTER LIE LOW FOR AWHILE!

THEY'RE NO FOOLS -
THEY'LL BE WELL ON
THEIR WAY!

LEFT
A BIT.

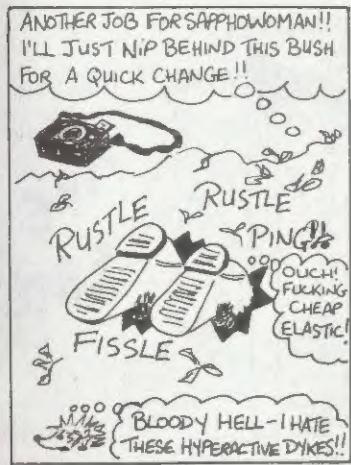
WHAT ELSE
COULD
POSSIBLY
GO WRONG
TONIGHT?



WHERE'S PENNY?
SHE CUT HER FINGER + WENT
TO SEE THE WOMAN WITH
THE RED CROSS.



S U D D E N L Y . . .





THE
END...

THE GREAT S+M DEBATE!







THE
NEXT
DAY...





PENNY THOUGHT IT WAS AN ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTEST + CHAINED HERSELF TO THE RADIATOR + EVERYONE THOUGHT SHE WAS REALLY BUTCH + BRILL + SO THEY - THEY ELECTED HER ONTO THEIR COMMITTEE! IT'S SO AWFUL!



NO! AS CHIEF WHIP ACTUALLY!!!



MANIC MOTHERS

DOES YOUR MOTHER HAVE TROUBLE ACCEPTING YOUR SEXUALITY?
IS SHE THE ULTIMATE EMOTIONAL GUILT-TRIPPER?



DOES SHE RESORT TO VOODOO TO BREAK UP YOU + YOUR LOVER?



MAYBE SHE OVER REACTS TO GAY HEALTH ISSUES?!!



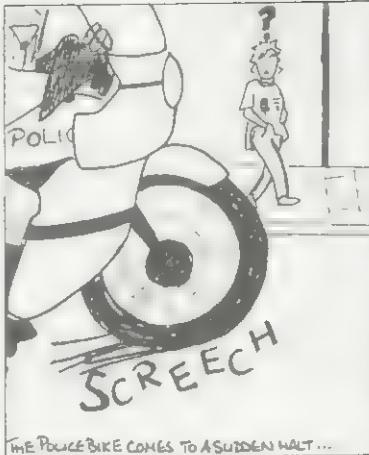
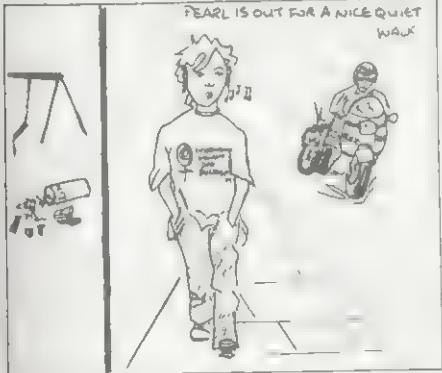
OR DOES SHE DETER YOU FROM GOING OUT SOCIALLY?!!



SAPPY WOMAN

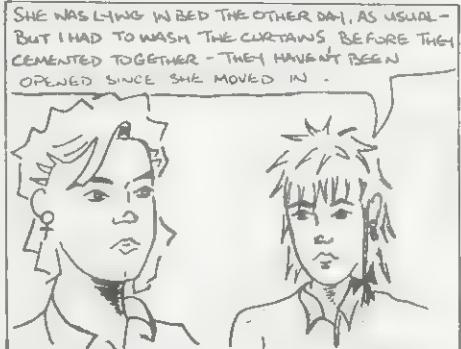


SAPPY WOMAN



SAPPY WOMAN









ViOLA NICEPOSIE in "A CARING PROFESSION!"



PEARL'S POWERS

JUST HOW DID PEARL GET HER POWERS?

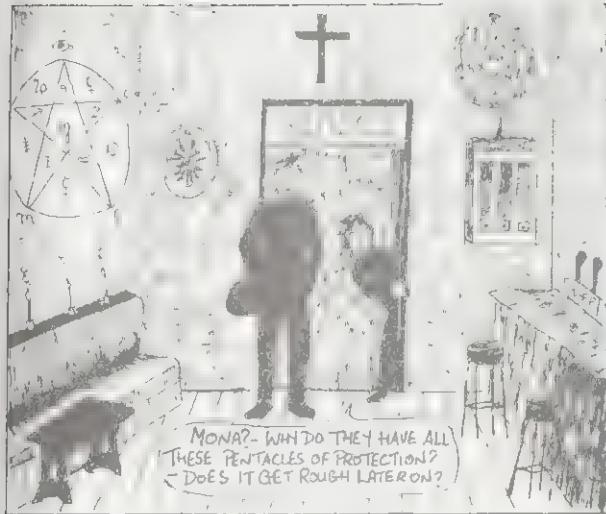


I MET HER AT THE WHOLE FOOD STORE-SHE TURNED AROUND + SMIRKED AT ME- YOU GET THE PICTURE?



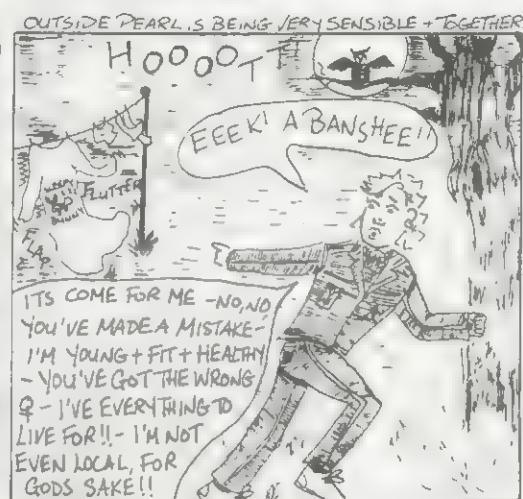
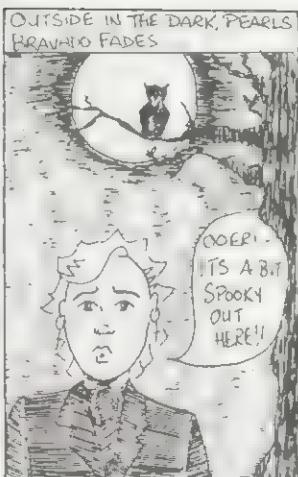
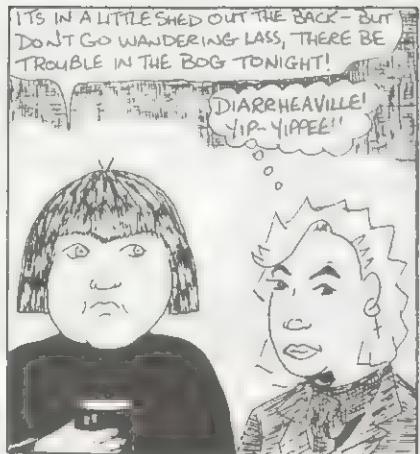
I KNEW IF WE WERE EVER GOING TO MAKE IT, WE'D HAVE TO GET AWAY TOGETHER FOR A WHILE - SO MONA TOOK ME TO HER MOST FABBY PLACE EVER, FOR THE WEEKEND.... UP T'AMASHUCKIN BOG!.... DEEP IN THE HEART OF IRELAND!





PEARL IS SOON FORGOTTEN AS MONA + BRIDGET CATCH UP ON LOCAL GOSSIP - LEFT UNATTENDED PEARL'S FEAR + UNEASE GROWS!!!





MEANWHILE... ON AN EVEN WILDER, MORE DESOLATE PART OF UPTAMASHUCKIN BOG, THE LOCAL WITCHES COVEN Bi-MONTHLY PRO-ANTI-ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT PROTEST MEETING, IS IN PROGRESS + THEY'RE ABOUT TO RECEIVE AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR....



WELL, GET HER OUT. WE'LL
HAVE TO START AGAIN FROM
SCRATCH. AT INNATE THE
TOKES WILL BE IN ANOTHER TERM!



SUDDENLY -
FROM THE IT IN
THE FERRY WHEW
THIS A
I'M A LADY
INDE ANEW
SAPPHO -
WOMAN!!!

IFEE, STRANGE! WORT OF
WEST LEBONON! THE HILL. NEIN! IN
A LADY MORNIN' +, E
YES, FIEN THE



EM + TINTIN OF LADS
A LADY RE LEVEL PM
I'M POLITICALLY AWARE!!!
I DO AM AFLING
I'M NIB? - OF ME JALI +
DWORKIN! - RICH + BUSTON!!
I MUST RETURN TO BELFAST +
PUT MY NEWFOUND SAPPIC
SUPER POWER AT THE
DISPOSAL OF DOWN TRODEN
DYKES EVERYWHERE!!!
UP, UP + AWAY - TO THE
RAILWAY STATION + MONA!

WELL, MAYBE THAT
WILL DO THE TRICK!



SHED NOT EXACTLY
ANOTHER BERNADETTE
M'ALISKEY, IS SHE?!?
WOULD IT HELP
IF I SAID SHE
LOOKED A LITTLE
LIKE RHONDA
PAISLEY ROUND
THE EYES?
SHUT UP!

SO THE TIME CAME FOR PEARL TO SAY
ADIEU TO HADDIE MONA, HER FIRST
TRUE LOVE! AT FJ MONA M. F. ST

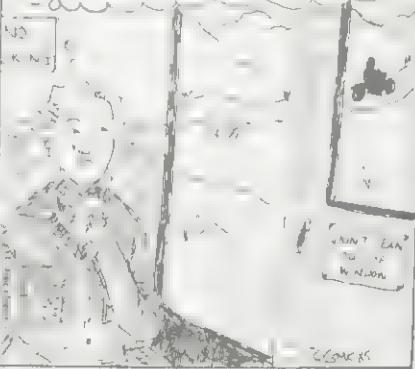
"IF WE WANT YOU
COME BACK TO FAS
WITH ME!"



NAW BABE! WHERE WE'RE
HERE ON THE WILD + WINDY BOG,
WHERE THERE'S A DEATH EVERY HOUR!
WE'RE GONNA WIN THE TIME TO
PARLOUR!! WE'LL BE RICH!!

AS THE TRAIN PULLS OUT...

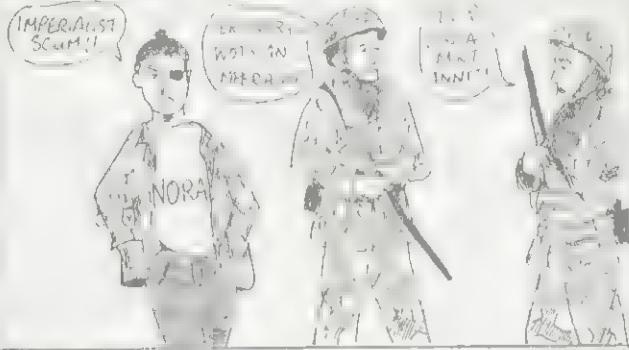
"I'LL NEVER FORGET HER, MY LEADER
OF THE PACK! VROOM, VROOM! SNIF!



MILLY Tent

"BELFAST
IN... BLUES!!"

MILLY'S ON HER WAY TO THE BARTENDER'S BAR IN THE DOWNTOWN, BUT SHE'S
MOTHER IN TALLAHASSEE! - SHE'S VERY CLOSE TO HER MOTHER!



“SHE IS MOMENTARILY INCENSED BY THE PRESENCE OF TWO MEMBERS OF HER
MAJESTY'S ARMED FORCES ON THE PAVEMENT BEFORE HER!!



11. MILLY IS STOPPED & HASSLED BY A FLIRTY, YET DISARVED, JUST
A LITTLE BIT FLIRTY LITTLE GUY!



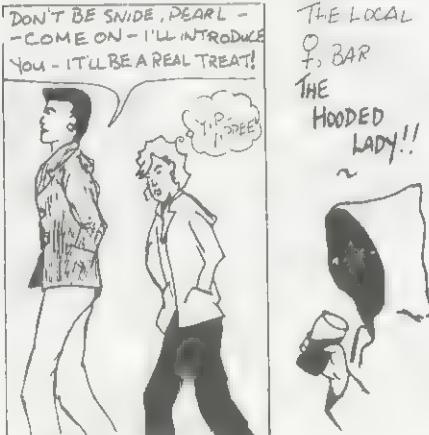
11. ALWAYS BEEN A BIG DISAPPOINTMENT TO MILLY THAT BY THE TIME SHE
ARRIVED ON THE WAR TRENDSIDE OF BELFAST, THEM WERE ALL TORN
THAT WAY - BUT SHE WRITES TO HER MOTHER ONCE A WEEK ANY-
WAY



M A N I C M O T H E R S



SAPPY WOMAN + A NIGHT ON THE TILES!!

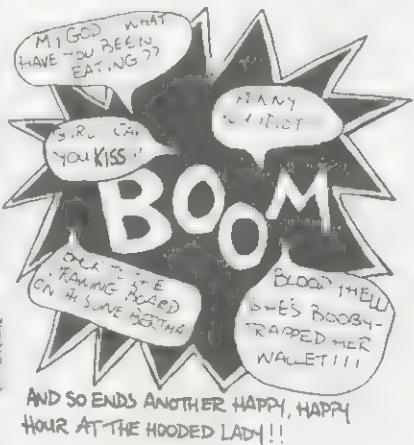












ON THE ROAD TO CORK!

A BRIGHT, BRISK, MAY MORNING + WE SEE OUR HEROINES SQUEEZED INTO MALLY'S OLD BANGER LET IT OUT ON ANOTHER GLORIOUS ADVENTURE, IN A HAPPY HEART'S + WHOLESMILE SINGING

HERE WE GO HERE WE GO!
HERE WE GOOOO!

CORK - IN
BEAN FEAST

BUT WHY ARE THE SO GAY?! WHAT IS THE REASON FOR ALL THIS MERRIMENT??!! COULD IT BE THE

CORK
♀'S
FUN
WEEKEND??

BUT WILL THEY EVER ARRIVE?

STOP!
CUSTOMS CHECKP.

ANYTHING TO DECLARE DARLIN'S?

YEAH - YOU'RE UGLY!



CUSTOMS OFFICERS ARE NOT RENOWNED FOR THEIR HUMOUR!



+ SO A
FEW HOURS
LATER -
HERE WE
GO! AGAIN...
OR DO WE?

HERE WE DON'T - HERE WE DON'T
- HERE WE DON'T -

CORK - IN

YO, VIOLA - WE KNOW
WHAT YER DOIN'! - WE
KNOW WHAT YER DOIN'!

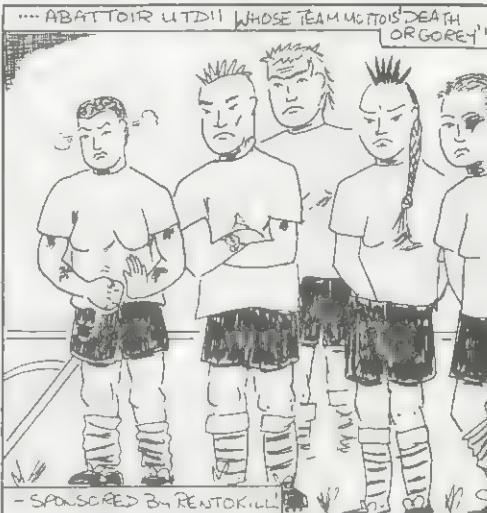
AT LAST THEY ARRIVE IN CORK'S FAR CITY, WHERE THE LYRES ARE SO PRETTY + IT'S PARTY TIME!!! - LET'S PLAY SPOT THE WALL FLOWER!!!



THE NEXT DAY DAWNS BRIGHT + CLEAR - UNLIKE OUR HEROINES HEADS!! - AND SO TO MARDYKE PARK WHERE A FRIENDLY GAME OF FOOTBALL IS ABOUT TO COMMENCE. HERE WE SEE THE BELFAST 99 VS. THE REST OF THE WORLD! (WELL IT'S ONLY FAIR!!) THE AIR IS FILLED WITH EXCITED ANTICIPATION + WARM SMILES!!



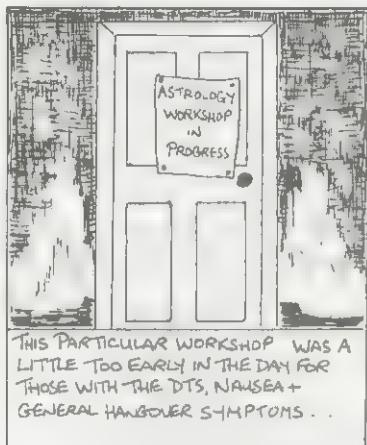
VS.







AND THEN THERE WERE THE
WORKSHOPS





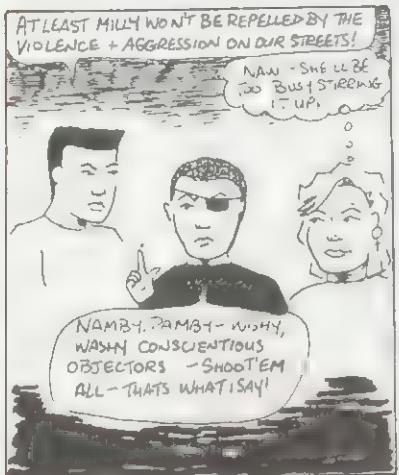
M.M. + Viola ... Go For A Pint!!!



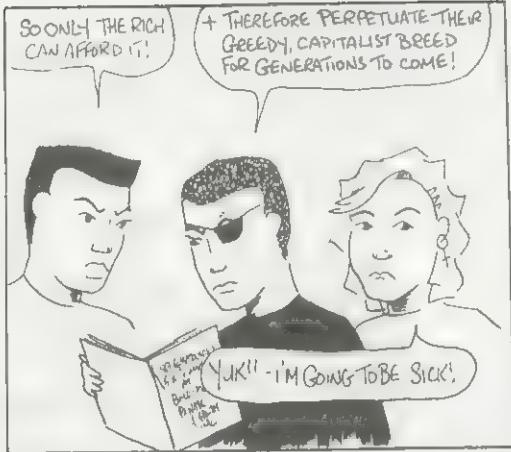
MOTHERS MANIC



SAPPY WOMAN + THE GREAT SPERM BANK RAID!!

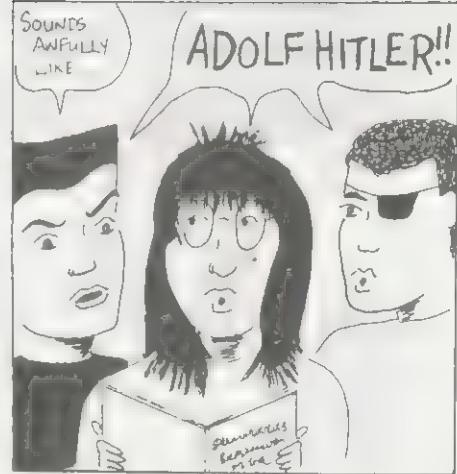














WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO PENNY? WILL SHE BE RESCUED? CAN HER FRIENDS REACH HER IN TIME? WILL THE CLINIC STILL GET 5 STARS IN PENNY'S ARTICLE? IS COMATOSE REALLY RECOMMENDED BY THE GREEK TOURIST BOARD? + WILL PEARL END UP WITH 'DISHMOP' HANDS? THESE QUESTIONS + MANY MORE ARE COMPLETELY IGNORED IN PART TWO OF THIS STORY... PENNY IN PERIL!!!

MOYAS DREAM!



SAPPHO WOMAN + PENNY IN PERIL!!







BUT PENNY'S FEARS ARE UNFOUNDED

RESCUED BY SAPPHOWOMAN!
SIGH! PEARL WILL BE SO JEALOUS!
I JUST KNEW YOU COULDNT
RESIST ME IN MY NIGHTIE!!
SO FLY ME TO THE MOON!!



MINUTES LATER THEY ARE REUNITED IN THE AZALEAS!!



THEY FLEE THROUGH THE STREETS OF BELFAST

I WISH I'D REMEMBERED MY SLIPPERS
- PUFF! PANT!!

KEEP GOING!
PC SCUM IS RIGHT
BEHIND US!! WHEEE!!
GASP!!



THEY NIP THROUGH BLACKSTAFF SQUARE

I CAN'T GO ON
- I'M DONE FOR!!



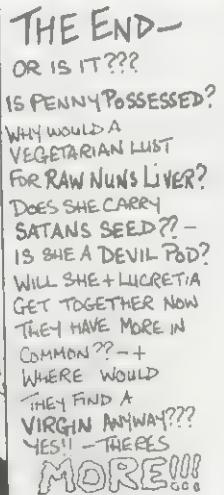
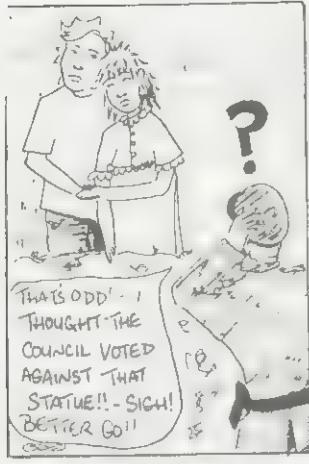
JUST AS THEY CLAMBER ONTO
THE BENCH, DC SCUM ARRIVES!!

FREEZE!
MAYBE HE
WON'T NOTICE
US!!

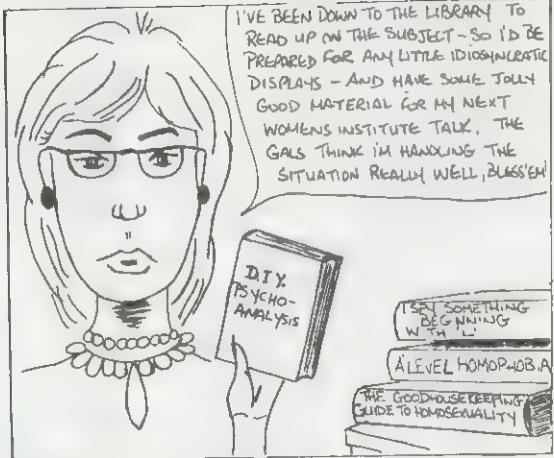


! DON'T MOVE AN INCH!





M A N I C M O T H E R S



PENNY POSSESSED!!



SHE SPENT ALL DAY SPRING CLEANING, SEWING
CURTAINS + WORKING ON A PATCHWORK QUILT!!

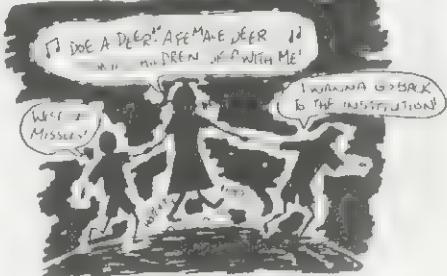


GOSH! - WHAT IS THE FORCE THAT HAS ENTERED HER
SOUL? - THE POWER INVADING HER MIND?? - WHAT IS
THIS ENTITY THAT HAS POSSESSED OUR PENNY???

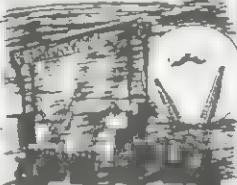




THE NEW PENNY HAS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP OUT AT THE LOCAL CHILDREN'S HOME IN HER SPARE TIME, BETWEEN BAKING BATCHES OF FUDGE + TEACHING BUDGIES TO SING DOWN AT THE 'HELP THE AGED CENTRE'!



THAT EVENING... A COLD WIND SWIRLS IN FROM THE EAST AS DARKNESS FOLLS. SUDDENLY, AS THE LAST RAMS OF THE SETTING SUN PERISH -



FUPENG MADE THE MAN FACE OF THE FULL MOON, A LONG, GRACEFUL BLACK

- BAT!!



I HATE MY LIFE - I'M JUST GOING INTO THE KITCHEN TO KILL MYSELF PENNY. YOU SIT THERE + RELAX - THERE'S A PROGRAMME ON SOON ABOUT BROWN PAPER BAGGES TIED UP WITH STRING - IT'S CALLED 'BOMBS AWAY'!



PEARL ENTERS...

THE DARKENED...

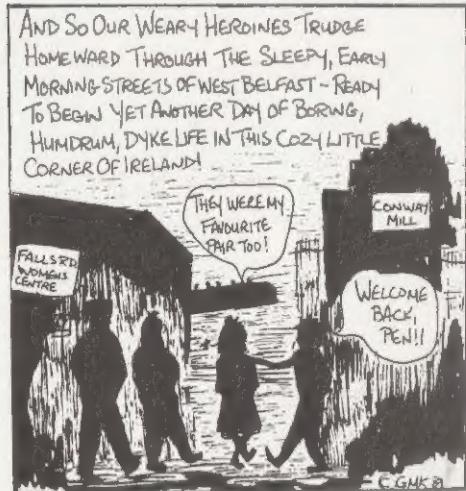
KITCHEN!!!



A LITTLE LATER: THE CAVALRY ARRIVES!!







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